

## Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 037349

O R 061345Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1133

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3197

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SA, SO

SUBJ: VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF : JIDDA 3074 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE, WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND KING KHALID ON MAY 5. BOTH WERE PLEASED WITH THE VISIT AND SAID THE COMMUNIQUE (YET TO BE ISSUED) WOULD STATE SOMALI OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN BASES ON ITS TERRITORY. SIAD DENIED VIGOROUSLY TO FAHD THAT ANY SOVIET BASES PRESENTLY EXISTED AND INVITED FAHD TO SEND AN INSPECTION TEAM TO VERIFY THIS. FAHD INTENDS TO TAKE HIM UP ON THIS AND HAS REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING AND BRIEFING THE INSPECTION TEAM. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CROWN PRINCE FAHD MAY 5 THE VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. CROWN PRINCE FAHD WAS NOTICEABLY PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT. FAHD, MORE THAN ONCE, REFERRED TO THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE SAID WOULD

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BE RELEASED LATER THAT AFTERNOON. (IT HAS STILL NOT

COME OUT, BUT IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE 2 P.M. LOCAL.) FAHD, WHO CLAIMS MOST OF THE CREDIT FOR THE PHRASEOLOGY OF THE COMMUNIQUE, SAID THAT IT WOULD SHOW THE SOMALI OPPOSES FOREIGN BASES ON ITS TERRITORY AND WILL NOT PERMIT ANY FOREIGN POWER TO ESTABLISH LAND, SEA OR AIR FACILITIES WHICH COULD BE INJURIOUS TO THE AREA AS A WHOLE OR TO FELLOW ARAB AND MUSLIM PEOPLES. (OTHER ASPECTS OF SIAD VISIT BY SEPTEL.)

2. FAHD SAID THAT HE HAD HAD TWO LONG SESSIONS WITH SIAD BARRE - ON OF THEM A TETE-A-TET - AND THAT HE HAD PRESSED SIAD HEAVILY ON THE QUESTION OF PERMITTING A STRATEGIC PART OF AFRICA AND THE ARAB/MUSLIM WORLD TO BECOME A THRIVING REFUGE FOR COMMUNISTS. FAHD SAID THAT HE HAD TO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES (EGYPT, IRAQ, SYRIA) WHICH HAD ONCE SHORT-SIGHTEDLY GOTTEN TOO CLOSE TO THE COMMUNISTS AND NOW HAVE SEEN THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS. FAHD SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD SIAD THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT SOMALIA IS A POOR COUNTRY AND THAT SIAD IS TRYING TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE. FAHD SAID SAUDI ARABIA IS WILLING TO ASSIST IN ACHEIVING THAT GOAL BUT THAT IT WILL HAVE TO SEE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE AID IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE WILL NOT BE WASTED OR GO FOR PURPOSES PREJUDICIAL TO SAUDI INTERESTS.

3. FAHD SAID THAT HE THEN QUESTIONED SIAD SHARPLY ABOUT THE BASES AND FACILITIES SOMALIA HAD PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE SOVIET UNION. SIAD STRONGLY AND REPEATEDLY DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH BASES. (FAHD SAID THAT THIS WOULD BY IMPLICATION BE ASSERTED BY THE COMMUNIQUE.) SIAD INVITED FAHD TO SEND A MILITARY DELEGATION TO SOMALIA TO INSPECT AND OBSERVE THAT THERE ARE NO SOVIET FACILITIES THERE. IF HE WISHED, HE WAS WELCOME TO GO HIMSELF. FAHD SAID THAT THOUGH HE WOULDN'T GO HE INTENDED TO SEND A DELEGATION SHORTLY. HE ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING A BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO CONDUCT A MEANINFUL INSPECTION.

4. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON KING KHALID LATER IN THE DAY AND FOUND HIM TO BE TAKING MOST OF THE CREDIT FOR THE SECRET

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HARD LINE WITH SIAD. KHALID POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD REFUSED TO GO TO THE AIRPORT TO MEET HIM AND HAD ORDERED CROWN PRINCE FAHD NOT TO GO (SIAD WAS MET BY THE GOVERNOR OF MECCA, PRINCE FAWWAZ). KHALID ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD SIAD REPEATEDLY OF THE DANGERS OF DEALING WITH COMMUNISTS.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED:

FAHD ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE APPROACH TO SIAD. HE WAS PROBABLY GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN. BUT IT IS COMFORTING THAT THE KING ALSO FOLLOWED THE LINE SO FAITHFULLY.

6. NORMAL SAUDI POLITENESS MIGHT HAVE LED FAHD TO DECLINE THE INVITATION TO SEND AN INSPECTION TEAM SINCE ACCEPTING WOULD BE SUCH A OBVIOUS SIGN THAT HE DOESN'T TRUST SIAD'S WORD. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, THE SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO SEND A DELEGATION. THE SAUDI CONCERN WITH SOMALIA HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY REPEATED USG DEMARCHE ON THE SUBJECT - FIRST BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE SAUDIS AND MOST RECENTLY BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS. THE SAUDIS THEREFORE ARE LOOKING TO US FOR GUIDANCE. THEY WILL WANT TO SEND SOMEONE VERY SOON BEFORE INSTALLATIONS COULD BE CHANGED OR REMOVED. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ON AN URGENT BASIS:

A) PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS OF THE AREAS OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE SAUDI DELEGATION EASILY TO FIND AND IDENTIFY THEM;

B) IF POSSIBLE, SOMEONE TO COME OUT HERE TO BRIEF THE SAUDIS ON WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT TO SEE AND WHAT THEY SHOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR.

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